

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

THE SUGAR SCHEDULE.

[Special Cor. of STATE CHRONICLE.]
Straight protectionists will agree with Mr. Blaine that it is unwise to put sugar on the free list, but from an altogether different standpoint.

Protection is right or it is wrong, and if the policy is pursued its benefits should be meted out as equitably as possible to every industry which demands it.

That the sugar planter here is generally a free trader in everything else but sugar is nothing to the point—if he wants his product protected by a tariff, he must aid him equally with the blanket manufacturer and the bean planter; otherwise the whole system resolves itself into an organized scheme of robbery.

It is however claimed that sugar ought to be protected solely from a mercenary point of view, as I understand Mr. Blaine's idea to be such, then I say that it had better be placed upon the free list.

Protectionists, if honest, can in no sense enter into the bartering business, whether it be in commodities or theories. They cannot afford to swap the principles of protection (as is proposed in regard to sugar) to the great American Pan Tonic in exchange for a permission to sell their eighteen cent Nebraska corn free of duty.

When protectionists begin to talk about reciprocal trade relations, reciprocity, commercial unions, swapping commodities, they are drifting right into the lives of the revenue reformers, tariff for revenues, and free traders.

If a single bar in the gate is let down, it then becomes only a matter of time—not a long time—before the whole gate is removed, and we shall have no custom houses, but absolute Free Trade and direct taxation. Such a condition, I confess, is more desirable, because less expensive and more equitable than any system of partial protection can be.

It is a maxim among protectionists that an import duty eventually cheapens the price of the article upon which it is levied; therefore the price of sugar must become enhanced when it is placed upon the free list; and the consumption of an article being more or less regulated by its cost, instead of taking more sugar we would take comparatively less. Likewise those republics would take less of our flour after they had met us in reciprocity by putting flour on the free list. So where is the gain either party in the transaction?

But suppose we discard the principle of protection here and adopt the bartering idea how should we manage the business. The sugar producing Republics do not use improved agricultural machinery, the climate is so hot they do not need our blankets and shoes nor little else and we would soon find our trade just as natural as ever, exchanging flour, calico, beads and trunks for coffee, hides, dye woods and cocoanuts.

These sugar Republics exported a total of only 172 million dollars worth of everything in 1888, while the non-sugar Southern Republics exported during the same time of \$200,000,000 worth of stuff. This is a quiet fact. What are we going to swap with these latter progressive, vigorous and intelligent people? Free wool? It seems not. Unmerited bounty? Certainly.

The small British colony of Demarara exports annually eight millions worth of sugar, and, except Brazil, I venture to assert, more sugar than all the rest of these Republics together export. I say nothing of Cuba, Porto Rico, etc.

Now Argentine and Chili produce no sugar, but yet export 160 million dollars worth of stuff a year—nearly as much as all the rest of those South American Republics combined. Do we not want to buy of us and more able to barter with us.

But all these people are shrewd traders and will buy where they can buy on the best terms, just as our own people do. They will not melt their consciences and empty their pockets for our sake but will be friendly with us, as we may deserve by treating them with exact political justice—being as friendly to the most powerful as to the most rotten of them.

Foreign trade will find its own course in times of peace—war can force it into new channels—political jealousy cannot do so.

Putting coffee on the free list was not a mistake from the strict protectionist view. We do not produce a grain of it. We cannot do so, and it has hurt no industry in this country to put it on the free list, while if it is dearer now than before natural causes being equal, it is only another argument that free trade does not cheapen things.

It is claimed that as soon as we placed coffee on the free list, Brazil put an export duty on it, and thereby kept the price, but have we bought any less coffee from her or any more from those countries which took no such advantage of our generosity. I think not. We went right on buying from Brazil instead of elsewhere—trade following its natural course as usual.

So with sugar under any system of swapping that may be discovered we shall continue to buy the bulk of it from Cuba, Porto Rico and Demarara.

The worst form of protection is that which practically protects the industries of a foreign country and I conceive that this sugar reciprocity idea is just such a form inasmuch as it is a protection to Salvador sugar against that of Cuba and even Louisiana. It is not patriotic, it is poor statesmanship and unsound commercial policy.

Let us look to nations that are able to buy and whose people live in houses, wear clothes and have decent stomachs for an extension of our foreign trade.

I find that our total exports and imports for the year 1888, was a little over fourteen hundred million dollars and that our trade with Great Britain alone amounted to six hundred millions or nearly half of the whole. Taking her colonies into consideration three fourths of our entire foreign trade is done with the much abused Britisher. We sold them four hundred millions worth of stuff and only bought of them two hundred million dollars worth and still they go right on buying from us while certain of our so-called statesmen go right on abusing them.

If we must have reciprocity (and I prefer downright free trade), why not cultivate it with three hundred million British subjects instead of sixty millions of all sorts of people, whose habits, customs, manners, language, religion, and even politics, are really more unlike ours, and whose governments are as corrupt, despotic and ephemeral as can be found in the annals of history?

A. V. DOKERY,
Lately Editor Southern Protectionist,
and United States Consul, Leeds, England, 1877-'85.

DEMOCRATIC STATE PLATFORM.

RESOLVED, That the Democracy of North Carolina reaffirm the platform and principles of the Democratic party, both state and national, and particularly favor free coinage of silver and an increase of the currency, and the repeal of the internal revenue system. And we denounce the McKinley tariff bill as unjust to the consumers of the country, and promotive of the trusts, combines and monopolies which have oppressed the people; and especially do we denounce the unnecessary and burdensome tax on cotton ties, and on tin, so largely used by the poorer portion of the people.

We likewise denounce the iniquitous Lodge force bill, whose purpose is to establish a second period of reconstruction in the Southern States, to subvert the liberties of our people and inflame anew race antagonism and sectional animosities. And we denounce the tyrannical action of Speaker Reed and his abettors who have changed the Federal House of Representatives from a deliberative body into a machine to register the will of a few partizan leaders.

RESOLVED, That we demand financial reform, and the enactment of laws that remove the burdens of the people, relieve the existing agricultural depression and do full and ample justice to the farmers and laborers of our country.

RESOLVED, That the Democracy of North Carolina take a just pride in the able and patriotic course of their Senators and Representatives in Congress touching the great public questions, that have been before them for action, and especially do we appreciate the great ability and zeal of Senator Vance in the protracted contest on the tariff question which reflect honor and credit alike on him and on the State of North Carolina and we cordially commend his re-election to the United States Senate by the next General Assembly of North Carolina, and we commend the wise and satisfactory administration of our State officers.

WHEREAS the education of the people is essential not only to individual happiness and prosperity but also to the maintenance of civil and religious liberty,

RESOLVED, That the next General Assembly of North Carolina is requested to increase the fund for the maintenance of Public Schools.

RESOLVED Further, that we favor the abolition of National banks, and the substitution of legal tender Treasury notes in lieu of National bank notes, issued in sufficient volume to do the business of the country on a cash system, regulating the amount needed on a per capita basis as the business interests of the country expands, and that all money issued by the government shall be legal tender in payment of all debts, both public and private.

That we favor that Congress shall pass such laws as shall effectually prevent the dealing in futures of all agricultural and mechanical productions, preserving a stringent system of procedure in trials as shall secure the prompt conviction, and imposing such penalties as shall secure the most perfect compliance with the law.

That we favor the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

That we favor the passage of law prohibiting the alien ownership of land, and that Congress take early steps to devise some plan to obtain all lands now owned by alien and foreign syndicates, and that all lands now held by railroads and other corporations, in excess of such as is actually used and needed by them, be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers now.

Believing in the doctrine of "equal rights to all, and special privileges to none," we demand that taxation, National and State, shall not be used to build up one interest or class at the expense of another. We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all revenue, National, State or county, shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

That Congress issue a sufficient amount of fractional currency to facilitate exchange through the medium of the United States mail.

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Price \$100.00. Has six additional commercial

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In 100 lb. guaranteed packages and offer same to the trade very low.

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The best of all package coffees, in 30-lb. cases, at New York prices.

The Very Best Quality Fine

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Just to hand in half barrels and barrels at bottom prices.

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Small Sizes.

A full and complete line of seasonable goods to suit the times.

All goods delivered free.

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JUST OPENED.

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&c., always on hand. Call to see me when

needing anything in the produce line.

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We refer to all the Banks of Asheville.

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On Monday, the 25th day of August, 1890,

we will begin to close out the stock of goods

at Morris & Carter's store, in the city of

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BEFORE

COLD WEATHER COMMENCES, COAT

YOUR WALLS AND CEILINGS WITH

---ALABASTINE---

DESTROYS ALL DISEASE GERMS AND

BRIGHTENS UP YOUR HOMES.

Thousands of Pounds have been Sold

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IT IS NO EXPERIMENT, BUT HAS

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It means a corset "bone"

that can't be broken—if it

can't be broken, it doesn't

stick into you—so it means a

"bone" of comfort, not of

contention.

It means a corset "bone"

that doesn't kink—if it doesn't

kink, the corset can't roll up

in the middle as corsets are

apt to do—so it means a

"bone" that stays where you

put it.

It isn't a "bone" at all,

but Kabo, Kabo, Kabo; and

Kabo means a corset you

wear a week or two or three,

till you make up your mind

about it, and then come back

to us and get your money,

if you'd rather have money

than Kabo.

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